

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for identifying an individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from an optical card, the system comprising:
3 an optical card drive adapted for reading from and writing to the
4 optical card, wherein the optical card includes biometric data of the individual;
5 a biometric scanner that reads the biometric information from the
6 individual; and
7 a data processor coupled to the optical card drive and the biometric
8 scanner, wherein the biometric information is compared with biometric data to assist
9 in authenticating that the individual is associated with the optical card.

1 2. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 1,
3 further comprising a display for displaying an image retrieved from the optical card,
4 whereby the image of the individual can be compared to the individual.

1 3. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 1,
3 wherein the data processor is programmed for encrypting and deciphering encrypted
4 data obtained from the optical card drive.

1 4. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 1,
3 wherein the optical card drive, the biometric scanner, and the data processor are held
4 in a single housing.

1 5. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 1,
3 further comprising a barcode scanner coupled to the data processor.

1 6. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 1,
3 further comprising a communication link for sending and receiving data of the
4 system.

1 7. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 1,
3 further comprising an access control mechanism, whereby the access control
4 mechanism is manipulated on verification of the identity of individual.

1 8. A system for identifying an individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from an optical card, the system comprising:
3 an optical card drive adapted for reading an image of the individual
4 from the optical card;
5 a display for displaying the image retrieved from the optical card; and
6 a data processor coupled to the optical card drive and the display,
7 wherein the image of the individual is displayed while the individual's appearance is
8 compared to the image to assist in authenticating that the individual is associated with
9 the optical card.

1 9. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 8,
3 further comprising a biometric scanner that reads the biometric information from the
4 individual, wherein:
5 the optical card includes biometric data of the individual, and
6 the biometric information is compared with biometric data to assist in
7 authenticating that the individual is associated with the optical card.

1 10. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 8,
3 wherein the data processor automatically performs the comparison of the image with
4 the appearance.

1 11. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 8,
3 wherein the optical card drive, the display, and the data processor are held in a single
4 housing.

1 12. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 8,

3 further comprising an access control mechanism, whereby the access control
4 mechanism is manipulated on verification of the identity of individual.

1 13. A system for identifying an individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from an optical card, the system comprising:
3 a biometric scanner for obtaining biometric data from the individual;
4 a housing comprising:
5 an optical card drive adapted for reading from and writing to
6 the optical card, and
7 a data processor coupled with the optical card drive and the
8 biometric scanner, wherein the data processor assists in comparing data from
9 said optical card and the biometric data and delivers data to the optical card
10 drive for writing on the optical card; and
11 a video output for displaying an image corresponding the individual,
12 wherein the image is read from the optical card.

1 14. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 13,
3 wherein the optical card stores a prescription or other medical therapy.

1 15. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 13,
3 wherein data processor is programmed for assigning testing of the individual with a
4 reading of the optical card.

1 16. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 13,
3 wherein the optical card includes software for interpreting information stored on the
4 optical card.

1 17. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 13,
3 wherein the housing further comprises a printer that is coupled to the data processor.

1 18. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 13,

3 wherein the biometric scanner comprises at least one of a fingerprint reader, an iris
4 reader, hand geometry reader, voice recognition device, face recognition device, and a
5 DNA recognition device.

1 19. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 13,
3 wherein the optical card is disk-shaped.

1 20. The system for identifying the individual and reading biometric
2 information pertaining to the individual from the optical card as recited in claim 13,
3 wherein audit information is written to the optical card during interaction with the
4 system.

1 21. A method for tracking an individual and information about the
2 individual, the method comprising:
3 assigning an optical card to the individual;
4 reading first biometric information from the optical card;
5 gathering second biometric information from the individual;
6 comparing first biometric information and the second biometric
7 information, wherein the reading, gathering and comparing steps are performed with a
8 system that includes a optical card drive, a biometric scanner and a data processor;
9 and
10 authenticating an identity of the individual based upon, at least, the
11 comparing step.

1 22. The method for tracking the individual and information about
2 the individual as recited in claim 21, further comprising steps of:
3 providing a display for displaying data from the data processor;
4 reading an image from the optical card;
5 displaying the image on the display, whereby an attendant can compare
6 the image with the individual to authenticate that the optical card is associated with
7 the individual.

1 23. The method for tracking the individual and information about
2 the individual as recited in claim 21, further comprising a step of writing information

3 to the optical card with the optical card drive that relates to the authenticating step,
4 whereby the information provides part of an audit trail for later inspection.

1 24. The method for tracking the individual and information about
2 the individual as recited in claim 21, further comprising a steps of:
3 assigning a test of the individual based on the identification; and
4 writing information to the optical card indicating the test was assigned.

1 25. The method for tracking the individual and information about
2 the individual as recited in claim 21, further comprising a step of encrypting
3 information that is written on the optical card.

1 26. The method for tracking the individual and information about
2 the individual as recited in claim 21, further comprising a step of writing a digitized
3 image of a document to the optical card.